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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,597 04/08/2004		Benton F. Baugh	A30928US	8109	
28805	7590	03/17/2006		EXAMINER	
ARNOLD &	FERRERA,	LAGMAN, FREDERICK LYNDON			
2401 FOUNT	AIN VIEW DI	RIVE	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
SUITE 630				Aut. Gran	
HOUSTON,	TX 77057	3673			

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

		Appli	cation No.	Applicant(s)	Applicant(s)				
Office Action Summary			20,597	BAUGH ET AL.	BAUGH ET AL.				
			iner	Art Unit					
		Frede	rick L. Lagman	3673					
Period fo	The MAILING DATE of this communica r Reply	ntion appears or	the cover sheet	with the correspondence a	ddress				
WHIC - Exter after - If NO - Failu Any r	CRTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR CHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAI sions of time may be available under the provisions of the SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communiperiod for reply is specified above, the maximum statute to reply within the set or extended period for reply will eply received by the Office later than three months after departed term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	LING DATE OF 37 CFR 1.136(a). In rication. ory period will apply a I, by statute, cause the	THIS COMMUN no event, however, may and will expire SIX (6) Mo e application to become	NICATION. a reply be timely filed ONTHS from the mailing date of this of ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).					
Status									
1)□	Responsive to communication(s) filed	on .							
·	This action is FINAL . 2b) This action is non-final.								
′=	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is								
,—	closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.								
Disposition of Claims									
4)⊠	4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-14</u> is/are pending in the application.								
•	4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.								
	5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.								
	6)								
	Claim(s) is/are objected to.								
· <u> </u>	Claim(s) <u>1-14</u> are subject to restriction	and/or election	requirement.						
	on Papers		•						
	·	-							
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.									
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.									
	Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).								
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).									
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.									
_	nder 35 U.S.C. § 119								
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of:									
	1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.								
	2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No								
	3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage								
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).									
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.									
Assault	v->	•							
Attachment	• •		, .	. O (DTC . 115)					
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date									
3) Inform	nation Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PT No(s)/Mail Date			f Informal Patent Application (PT	O-152)				

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

- 1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claim 1, drawn to a method of constructing a drilling or production platform, classified in class 405, subclass 217.
 - II. Claims 2-3 and 12, drawn to a method of constructing a drilling or production platform, classified in class 405, subclass 228.
 - III. Claims 4-6, drawn to a method of constructing a platform, classified in class 405, subclass 204.
 - IV. Claim 7, drawn to a method of communicating utilities, classified in class 405, subclass 303.
 - V. Claims 8 and 9, drawn to a method of heating a drilling platform support post, classified in class 175, subclass 17.
 - VI. Claims 10-11, drawn to a method of removing a platform support post, classified in class 405, subclass 226.
 - VII. Claims 13 and 14, drawn to a method of sealing an intersection formed between a plurality of platform modules, classified in class 405, subclass 195.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I-VII are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs,

modes of operation; and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the different inventions have different modes of operation. Inventions I-VII relate to various methods associated with the construction of a platform, while they may appear similar, the inventions have different modes of operation.

- 3. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
- 4. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
- 5. A telephone call was made to Raymond Ferrera on 3/14/06 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

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Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frederick L. Lagman whose telephone number is 571-272-7043. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Engle can be reached on 571-272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Frederick L. Lagman Primary Examiner Art Unit 3673

FLL